

## R.C.C.- BOSSES' STRONG - ARM

Blind support of the police seems to be the order of the day as far as the Responsible Citizens' Committee is concerned.

Ralph Purdy, secretary of the organization, said at a press conference last week that the main purpose of his group is to show the police that they have citizens' support.

But in answering questions about the causes of crime, Purdy admitted that his organization's program included no substantial research on the subject.

PRAIRIE FIRE reporters suggested the obvious to Purdy at the press conference -- that the rising crime rate is directly related to the present economic crisis in Saskatchewan.

"We haven't gone into that," Purdy responded.

What his group has gone into, however, is the formation of a private citizens' auxiliary to the police force.

The RCC is attempting to get the users of two-way radios in the city to observe and report on the activities of "suspicious characters."

Groups that the RCC plans to have participating in the Community Radio Watch include taxi and construction companies and radio-equipped mobile units of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation and Government Telephones.

Doug McWilliams, chairman of the RCC's law-enforcement sub-committee, will organize the radio watch through the Optimists' Club.

Other organizations will also work with the RCC, it-

self an outgrowth of the Regina and Saskatchewan Employers' Associations. The Alcoholism Commission, the Kiwanis Clubs of Regina, and the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association will join the RCC in an anti-drug campaign.

Purdy said that, according to one policeman, much of the rising crime rate could be put down to people stealing to buy "narcotics."

When asked what types of narcotics he was referring to, he mentioned only the soft drugs -- marijuana and LSD. But these drugs are not addictive and thus don't lead people to steal to buy them.

Purdy denied knowledge of this fact.

Purdy was also asked by PRAIRIE FIRE reporters if he thought crime in Regina was related to the policy of the Employers' Associations of keeping wages low and prices high. The implication of the question was that low wages and high prices make people desperate for the things they need to survive.

Purdy again ignored the question.



Someone decided last week to tell the Responsible Citizens' Committee what he really thinks they are.

## WELFARE WOMEN ORGANIZE

Some women in Regina are getting together to demand a better deal from the Provincial Department of Welfare.

The women are welfare recipients. All of them are single, separated, widowed, or divorced, and most of them have children. They have met several times in the last two months to discuss their common problems.

The things they want are basic: decent housing, or as one woman put it, "housing fit for humans to live in," enough money to buy food and clothing for themselves and their children, and a working knowledge of their legal rights as women who are alone with children.

They have held several meetings and are planning another one on January 20th. It will be held in the auditorium of St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral at 8:00 p.m.

They have set up an executive and committees to look into three basic questions: housing, food and clothing, and legal rights.

Plans for the near future include the presentation of a brief on welfare to the Thatcher government, discussions with welfare workers themselves, and an invitation to the Minister of Welfare to answer some of their criticisms at a public meeting.

Because of the complexity of the whole welfare process many women have had widely varied experiences in getting support from the department.

Some reported great difficulty in getting anything more than a bare subsistence level. Others said they had been given extra money beyond a basic allowance.

All agreed there should

at least be some consistency in the program.

"We looked at the Welfare manual," Mrs. Marg Dinnin, president of the group, said, "and it is pretty high-falutin' stuff."

It was almost impossible to make any sense out of it, she added.

Mrs. Dinnin expressed some disappointment at the small attendance the group has had up to this point. But she hopes that with more publicity and concern, the group will grow.

"We know that no one is happy with what they get from social welfare," she said.

All of the women agreed that welfare didn't begin to provide the basic necessities for human existence.

Welfare recipients do not even get enough money to adequately feed, house, and

clothe themselves. Often food money is used for rent because it is impossible to find accommodations for the amount of money provided by welfare for rent.

Most important, welfare strips people of their pride and self-confidence.

"We have certain rights and we want to know what they are."

"Nobody ever tells us what is going on."

Mrs. Dinnin doesn't know how anyone can be expected to live on the amount of money welfare hands out.

The group knows there are hundreds of women in Regina merely existing on welfare, but to get these women organized is another matter.

They urge every woman on welfare to give support to the group and to work with it to begin to change the situation.



# Editorial: PROJECT 70 -- WHAT HAS IT DONE?

Project 70 has come and gone, and Regina will never be quite the same again.

After all, 24 hours of programming over one radio station in one week, all handled by one man, can't fail to have an impact.

Project 70 is a radio program that ran four hours each day last week on CJME. It was partly pre-taped interviews, partly interviews with studio visitors, and partly phoned-in question and comment.

All of it was handled and heavily dominated by Mr. Robert Savage, who is taking the program on a continent-wide tour. The theme is "Drug Use and Abuse" and the purpose the promoters give is to "stimulate, educate and involve all Saskatchewan residents in this major problem".

The purpose appears on the surface to be a laudable one. There is no doubt that considerable effort was put into assembling the material used. Mr. Savage said he had spent \$200,000 and would expose listeners to 2,800 "authorities and experts".

But was the real purpose of Project 70 what the sponsors said? And what have been the actual effects?

In a meeting at the University last Friday afternoon to discuss Project 70, over 200 students aired their concern about the nature and impact of the program. They invited Mr. Savage and representatives of the radio station to join in the discussion. The invitations were not accepted. Since Mr. Savage had repeatedly stated on the air his desire to get everyone thinking about the drug question, one cannot wonder why neither he nor the radio station officials felt it worth while to talk with 200 students and faculty.

A resolution passed by the University meeting without dissent, declared Project 70 to be "sensational, biased, confusing rather than enlightening, and likely to arouse and increase anxiety rather than provide solutions".

Speakers at the meeting analyzed the program in some detail, indicating why they felt that its impact was harmful rather than beneficial. Some speakers, who have had many years of experience in drug research, pointed out the inaccurate and misleading nature of some of the material carried on Project 70 and the generally confusing result to be expected.

Certainly some of the material carried on Project 70 was accurate and valuable information; some of the studies cited were sound and useful studies. Certainly there's a need for

such information now, especially about some drugs.

Some of the local persons invited to the studio and interviewed by phone made valiant efforts to get across reliable information and a constructive approach. But the essential point is that Mr. Savage handled the research reports, the experts interviewed and the phone-in calls with minimal knowledge and a great deal of self-importance, ignorantly and arrogantly. At best he created only confusion.

But why should Mr. Savage and the promoters of the program wish to confuse the public on drugs? The most obvious answer is the one suggested at the University meeting:

The Canadian public is now awaiting the report of the Royal Commission of Enquiry into the Non-medical Use of Drugs. The Commission was appointed by the government to conduct a thorough study of the Canadian situation and make recommendations.

The indications are that the Commission is taking its task very seriously and making every effort to obtain all the facts and to hear every point of view. Their report can be expected to provide as sound guidance as possible, not only to the government but also to the public.

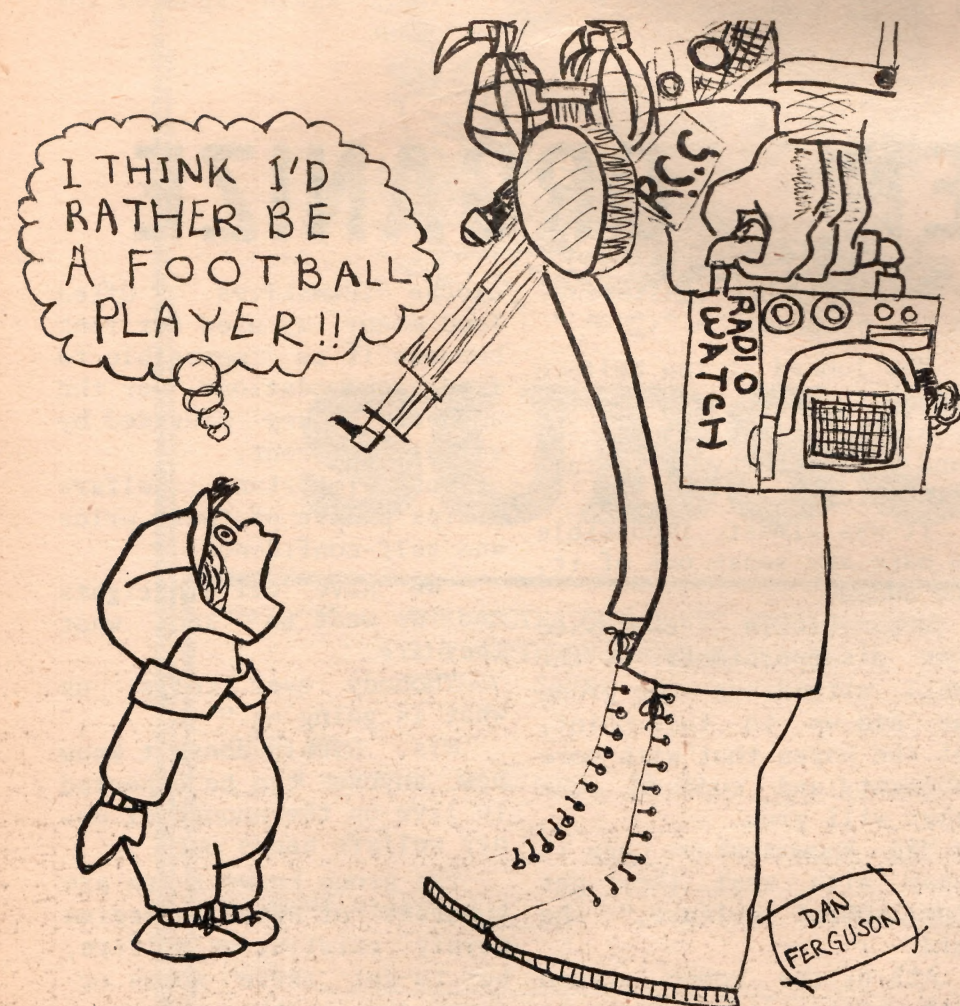
There have also been indications that the federal government is contemplating significant changes in the drug control legislation on the basis of the Commission's report.

We are faced with the fact that just before the release of the Royal Commission report, someone has been motivated to send across the country a program which is designed to leave the Canadian public both fearful and confused on the drug issue.

Who then are the interests that are sufficiently opposed to changes in the drug laws to initiate a program like Project 70 at this time. And who can afford to spend \$200,000 or more to produce it?

Arousing anxiety and spreading confusion have often been deliberate tactics of those who want to divert the people from their basic economic and social problems. If parents can be worked into a state of sleepless anxiety over whether their children are involved with drugs, they will have much less attention to give to problems such as low wages, threatened unemployment, restrictions on freedom, oppressive police measures, and the changes needed in our whole social and economic system.

Hitler used the same methods, came to power and established a savage totalitarianism.



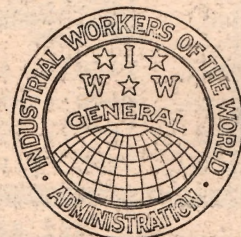
THE RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE SETS A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR OUR YOUTH.

## Prairie Fire

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# ORDERLY MARKETING UNDERMINED

by DON MITCHELL

On December 29, the Canadian Wheat Board ordered the RCMP to seize the permit books of 71 farmers in the Drinkwater area.

This was the first move in an effort by the federal government to re-establish orderly marketing to the extent that present legislation will allow. In this case, the infraction involved a failure by the farmers involved to record grain sales to Ferguson's Feed Mill in their permit books.

The issue is an important sidelight to the general farm crisis. It is the present wheat surplus crisis that has forced farmers to sell much of their grain as feed grain. The seizure of the permit books in Drinkwater is also interesting because Ross Thatcher was among those caught with his fingers in the cookie jar.

Up until 1960, the movement of all feed grain was controlled on a quota basis through the CWB. This was to ensure that all farmers had equal access to the market and to guaranteed prices.

In 1960, the legislation governing the Wheat Board was changed by the Diefenbaker government to exclude feed grain (barley, oats and low-grade wheat) from orderly marketing. This meant that farmers would have to compete with each other on an open basis for sales to feed mills and feed lots.

Since grain was then in oversupply, the price naturally began to drop. Wheat fell from \$1.25 in 1963, to \$1.10 in 1966, to 40¢ and 50¢ in 1969.

The main advantage in this cut-throat "price war" went to the large livestock and poultry operations which were being set up by corporations beginning in 1967. Guaranteed a cheap supply of feed, these large operations had the advantage over private livestock producers who were still growing their own feed.

Thanks to the federal government this aspect of grain marketing was legal and above-board.

What was not legal was the movement of this grain over provincial boundaries. Under the Wheat Board regulations all grain must be bought and sold within the province unless it is being handled by the CWB.

The reason farmers are required to enter all grain sales in their permit books is simple. It allows the CWB to trace the movement of all

grain, whether or not it is being moved within the quota system.

The failure to make entries is more than just a "technicality", as Ross Thatcher described it. It is the failure which enables commercial enterprises such as car dealers or furniture stores to trade illegally in grain.

In the Drinkwater case, the farmers who were trading with Ferguson's Feed Mill were part of an illegal operation in grain trade. Ferguson has only 500 cattle, though his yards could hold 2500. Most of his business is in custom grinding of

feed grain for distribution to other points in the province. Whether this involves deals with urban merchants to buy grain they've received from farmers, or whether it is limited to simple transactions with farmers is not clear at this point.

But it is clear that Ferguson, the manager, is a strong and long-standing provincial Liberal. He specialized in government contracts to build roads and dams in the early 60's.

It's small wonder then, that the Premier was involved in dealings with him and that he spoke against the CWB and Lang when they tried to uphold the law.

This incident is just the beginning of a struggle to maintain orderly marketing.

To win, the farmers will have to force the government not only to follow and enforce laws but also to establish new ones. "All grains under the CWB" and price supports are only a beginning. Ultimately producers will have to control the whole marketing and distribution of their produce.

Only when the workers of an industry control it will the laws governing the industry be democratic and just. If Thatcher and his like are trampled along the way, it will be no surprise.

## "SPECIAL SQUAD" MEMBERS ACQUITTED

Four members of a "special squad" of the Regina City Police were acquitted last week of an assault charge laid by 23-year-old Carl Harris.

Dept. Sgt. Frank Mayowski, Const. H. Roney, Const. E. Swayze and Const. P. Nicuricity were judged not guilty of beating Harris up last Oct. 16.

Harris testified that he was followed home that night and searched for an alleged revolver. Then the four police told him to get in their car, where they questioned him about drugs, Harris continued.

He said the police car headed east on No. 1 Highway.

He could not later identify one of the men, but he

did recognize and identify two others, Mayowski and Roney. The fourth officer was identified during testimony as Const. J. Street.

Harris also testified that he was told he should move to Winnipeg.

The car he was being driven away in continued out east on No. 1, past the CKCK radio tower, and turned off on a side road.

Harris said that he and the policemen in the car waited for about two minutes for another car, during which time the questioning continued.

When the other car arrived, Roney got out and went over to it. Harris said Roney came back to the car he was in and told him to get

out of the car.

Harris said he was then struck from behind on the side of his face by someone he didn't see. Then he was turned around and struck again in the face, by Roney.

He said he then fell down and was kicked several times and left in the ditch.

Two RCMP officers, D. Ross and J. Partridge, testified that they saw the four accused Regina officers in the area right after Harris claims he was beaten.

Judge Schollie found that Const. Swayze was not at the scene and that the RCMP officer had made an honest mistake in saying that he had been.

But the RCMP officer seemed visibly upset about the way the three City policemen contradicted his testimony on the incident.

Defence attorney McIntyre concentrated his questioning of Harris on character assassination. He continually asked about Harris' connections with the Apollos, a local motorcycle club of which Harris is president, and about Harris' past record.

All three City policemen testified that Harris wasn't hit, that he got out of the car by himself and was grabbed by Street, who was sitting beside him.

Roney said that he pushed Harris on the chest, away from Street, and that Harris then fell forward because he was on the edge of the ditch.

Roney said Harris struck his face on the doorhandle of the car. Pictures of Harris' face after the alleged beating, however, made it clear that much more damage was done than could have been caused by a doorhandle.

## STRIKE SETTLED

After twelve weeks on the picket lines employees at St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan are returning to work.

The Board of Directors of the hospital signed a "memorandum of understanding" with Local 80 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees last Thursday. Both parties agreed to abide by the decision of the Arbitration Board established in Prince Albert under the Essential Services Emergency Act, (Bill 2).

The arbitration board is expected to reach a decision early this week.

Two weeks ago the union suggested a similar agreement, but the hospital board turned it down.

Later that week, a union spokesman urged supporters of the strike to boycott the hospital. He threatened an

increase in militancy on the part of the strikers.

The threat was in response to a move to break the strike. Nursing assistants in several provincial hospitals, including St. Joseph's had allegedly appealed to the Labour Relations Board to remove the union as their representative.

In fact, the request had involved a petition but no meeting of the employees concerned. Estevan nursing assistants later repudiated the decertification move.

Premier Thatcher has hinted several times that his government will not pay for a wage increase of more than 6 percent. The Estevan workers hope that Mr. Thatcher will change his mind in response to the stirring public support for the hospital workers' demands.



# A REPORT ON LOW-COST POTENTIAL OF PUBLIC HOUSING —

When the government goes to the trouble and expense of establishing a special committee to investigate a national problem, the situation has usually reached the crisis stage.

The recent Federal Task Force on Housing is such a case.

Fewer and fewer families are able to afford to buy new homes. The housing shortage, soaring land and construction costs, increasing municipal tax burdens, and the demands of Canadians for adequate housing have all contributed to this grave problem.

But the problems which face new home buyers cannot be solved by the federal government alone. The entire housing field is dominated by large private corporations that reap huge profits at the expense of the buyer.

These include land speculators, mortgage firms, realtors, lumber suppliers, construction firms, and landlords.

In the free enterprise market, increased demand for any commodity that is in short supply automatically increases the cost. And as the cost of new homes goes up, so do rents.

The Task Force pointed out the seriousness of the housing crisis for home buyers earning between \$7,000 and \$15,000 per year. If it is serious for this income group, what must the family earning less than this be faced with?

Their costs, too, have risen, in most cases faster and to higher levels. With the fight against inflation hurting the people in the lower-income brackets most, the housing situation squeezes them deeper and deeper into debt and into more crowded living conditions.

At the same time, their rents increase, food and clothing costs increase, while their incomes remain static or drop.

They're caught in a cost-price squeeze over which they have no control.

Through the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the federal government provides up to 90 per cent of the capital to construct or purchase housing for low-rental projects. CMHC would also provide 90 per cent of operating and maintenance costs for such housing.

A few low-rental units  
4 prairie fire

have been built under CMHC regulations across Canada, but the number is far below what's required. Most of the projects built provide little more than basic shelter.

In the larger Eastern cities, huge high-rise apartment blocs went up and row houses spread across fields, all crowded together in uniform plans. Efficiency in land use, construction costs and crowding a large number of units into a small place seem to have been the only factors considered.

In any city in Canada, low-rental housing looks like low-rental housing. It is unmistakable in its drabness and sameness -- the concentration camp layout, an artificial environment in which people appear more to exist than to live.

Studies undertaken by CMHC have shown that for only a little more, housing can be built that reflects what people desire in their own homes -- beauty, privacy, space and quality in the building construction itself.

Landscaping the areas around the developments is not a major expense, and would change the entire appearance to something more natural-looking and livable.

In few Regina neighbourhoods, for instance, do people know their neighbours or cooperate with them to improve their environment. Areas where this potential is most evident--and least fulfilled--are housing developments like Gladmer Park.

Tenants in Gladmer have much in common -- a need for low-income housing, young families, and adjacent and similar houses. Their homes are organized in 12- and 16-family units.

But this proximity and this commonness rarely manifest themselves in cooperative actions. The potential of a place like Gladmer is fascinating, but for the most part it's only potential.

Ownership of the project could be in the hands of the tenants, the people best equipped to know and work hard toward meeting their own needs. Facilities could be added--such as a day-care centre, recreational areas, a cooperative grocery, a community centre, etc.

Many people in this and other projects have been known to turn down job advancements or higher pay.

Some would still be unable to afford the higher rents they'd be charged. Others are afraid of being forced out of the projects and having to meet commercial rental rates.

Thus it is that income ceilings -- along with the prohibition against women working in Gladmer -- prevent people from advancing themselves.

Low-rent housing actually keeps families from moving out of the lower social

class in which they're stuck. It does little, if anything, to help them get together with each other to make changes collectively.

Many more decent, livable housing units are needed in Canada. Public housing built to meet these needs has much potential for creating an environment of beauty, solidarity and popular control.

So far, neither our need for housing nor the potential this housing affords has been realized.



## AND THE WIFE

By SHIRLEY SPIDLA  
and MAIJA CRANE

*"Every tenant in Gladmer Park has known since the tenancy began that working wives are prohibited."*

The Gladmer Park housing project in Regina had two important rules. One sets the maximum income tenants may earn if they wish to remain in the units. The other prohibits wives from working.

The two rules together have a lot to do with some of the problems project residents--especially the women--face.

For one, Gladmer tenants have never known exactly what the income ceiling is, though it's plain to them that it's not enforced anyway.

Everyone knows that some families earn a lot more than others. Everyone would like to make more money, but without knowing the maximum they can't escape the constant worry that they'll be

making too much and will be evicted.

At the same time, the second regulation, by restricting women to the home, makes it impossible for families on the low end of the scale to add to their total incomes by the wife getting a job.

The question many residents ask is:

If one man earns only a hospital worker's wages -- about \$300 a month -- and his neighbour earns \$500 a month, why shouldn't the wife of the first man be allowed to work to bring her family's income up to that of the second family?

The only answer to this irrational paradox seems to lie in the landlord's and the society's attitudes toward women--that their "proper" responsibilities are to the home, nurturing their husbands and children.

The consequences of this attitude become clear when you realize that the daytime population of Gladmer is exclusively women and children. The women are forced to



# T HOUSING IN REGINA

## OW CITY RENTAL HOUSING WORKS

Housing is available for about 600 of Regina's low-income earners. Low-rent accommodations are provided in four types of federally-subsidized programs: two publicly-owned apartment type projects, a non-profit project, a privately-owned housing development, plus single-family homes scattered throughout the city.

The largest of these programs is the privately-owned Gladmer Park with 320 units. Two- and three-bedroom units

rent for a standard rate of \$69 and \$77 per month.

All the publicly-owned housing has rents geared to a sliding scale based on the total family income.

The city of Regina, in conjunction with the provincial and federal governments operates two other developments, Greer Court and Regent Court. The city also operates a number of private homes.

In all of the low-rental housing, the Federal Government provides up to 90 per cent of the initial capital in long-term, low-interest loans to the housing developers.

This is done through the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Rent increases must be agreed to by CMHC during the life of the agreements.

Besides being the largest public project in Regina, Gladmer Park is the oldest. The project is owned by the Calgary-based Muttard Agencies, which also runs similar housing projects in other western cities. It is operated by Gladmer Developments Limited.

Gladmer is a limited dividend company. In 1952, it received a \$2,326,000 loan

from CMHC to cover 90 per cent of the construction and land costs for the project.

Gladmer purchased 30 acres of land from the provincial government for the project, under undisclosed conditions and at an undisclosed price. Full city taxes and utility rates were to be paid to Regina at normal rates.

All the units in Gladmer are identically constructed, varying only in the colour they are painted. The 320 suites are contained in 80 units, with four single suites per unit. The project is laid out in 12 courts, each of which has six or eight units.

Tenants in Gladmer are screened by company agents to insure that they meet the income qualifications.

Tenants must reveal their incomes, and supposedly if total income exceeds a specified sum, they are required to leave Gladmer. But the specific income ceiling is neither known by the tenants nor very strictly enforced.

The company's screening also includes an inspection of prospective tenants current housing to check up on their housekeeping habits.

Women are not allowed to work if they live in Gladmer unless they are widows or their husbands are unable to work. If the company finds women working, they give them no choice but to quit their jobs or to leave Gladmer.

Since most tenants are in the middle-income brackets, the additional salary of the wives would place the family over the income ceiling for the development.

The Regina Housing Authority, established by the federal, provincial and municipal governments, operates Regent Court and Greer Court.

The 109 units in Regent Court and Greer Court's 151 units are leased on a graduated rental scale based entirely on family income per month. Starting at \$32, rent scales go up to \$168 per month for tenants with an income of \$560. Persons with incomes over \$560 pay a straight 30% for monthly rent.

The two courts were constructed by the three governments under the CMHC plan for low-income housing. Through CMHC, the federal government provided 75 per cent of the capital. Twenty per cent came from the province and five per cent from the city.

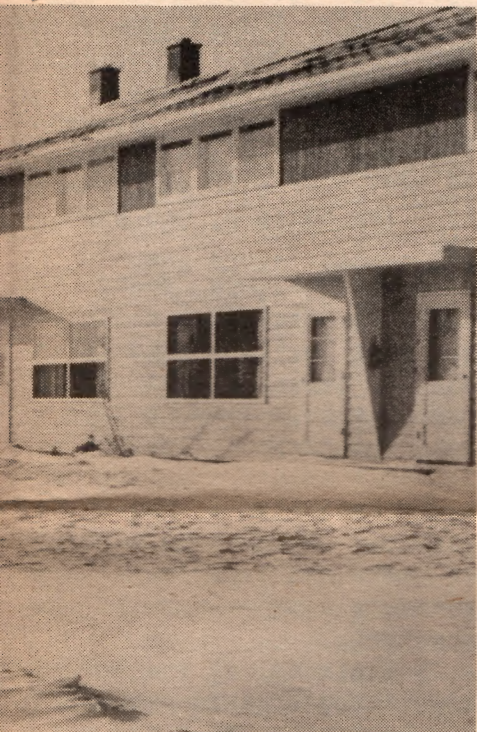
The RHA which administers the two courts is appointed by the provincial government. The authority hires the managers and office and maintenance staffs.

People applying to live in the courts have to go to the Housing Authority. As there is usually a greater demand for low-rental accommodations than the supply, applicants are graded on a point system based on number of children, income and present housing.

Government officials are now expanding their program to include single family dwelling units. The government purchases homes in the city and rents them out to low-income families.

Many of the homes are being rented out to Indian and Metis families. This is coordinated by the Indian and Metis department, which brings families into the city for "employment" or "educational up-grading".

Under this public housing program, the CMHC provides 75 per cent of the purchase price for the homes, and the province pays the balance.



## STAYS HOME ALL DAY

and their whole day caring the children and their

Housework, as every woman, though not difficult in the usual sense of the word, is usually tedious and tally exhausting.

When caring for small children, a woman finds little time to begin and complete even one task without being interrupted.

Because women in Gladmer are forced to remain home day and indoors most of the winter, many do take part-time jobs on the sly -- only to break the monotony.

To do so is to risk eviction, but these women don't seem to help the management maintain an image of affluence in Gladmer -- an image of hard-working husbands supporting loving but helpless wives and children. The two rules work well together in Gladmer, and women are the ones who suffer.

But there is one way that Gladmer women could gain a sense of freedom, and also allow their children to gain

wider experience.

With its many pre-school children, Gladmer would be an ideal place for a community-controlled day care centre.

Some tenants think this is an excellent idea. But they doubt that the women could ever get together to start a day care centre or to pressure the landlord into providing space.

There's always the danger of being evicted for doing or saying something the landlord doesn't like.

A housewife's life is unimportant, usually even to her. She's isolated in her house, with her whole existence depending on her husband and children.

She's home with the children all day, and the frustrations this creates get taken out on them.

By the time her husband arrives home, she's often desperate for some adult company.

Children in this kind of situation aren't much better off. They come to regard their mother as the enemy.

They begin to feel they're her possessions, rather than people.

Gladmer has the potential for being a genuine community. But it's an unrealized community.

People don't feel strongly enough about the possibility of changing their lives to realize that they can change them. They become and remain demoralized, simply accepting their fate as if there could be no other way.

But day care centres or community centres for older kids could be built. This would be one first step toward relieving the situation in which Gladmer rules put the women living there.

It would be something everyone could work together on. And it would certainly be good for the children.

Through this kind of activity, the people who spend the most time in Gladmer -- the women and children -- could begin taking control of their surroundings to shape them according to their own needs.



# WAFFLES

# ORGANIZE

Last summer, a group of New Democratic Party members publicly demanded that the NDP return to its basic socialist program.

They produced a manifesto which the press at first called the "Watkins Manifesto", which called "for an independent socialist Canada." Since then, the document has become known as the "Waffle Manifesto".

This manifesto stirred a great deal of interest throughout Canada. It quickly became the major focus of debate at the NDP National Convention in Winnipeg.

About 35 per cent of the delegates to the convention supported the Waffle Manifesto. About half of the Saskatchewan delegates took this side on the vote.

The Manifesto demands that NDP policies and programs be based on six basic principles:

1) Canadian society cannot really fulfill basic human needs as long as it is capitalist. Canadian capitalism must be replaced by the public ownership and control of the whole economy -- factories, offices and banks.

2) Regional disparities in Canada can be eliminated only when there is a publicly planned economy. Disparities will continue as long as the economy operates solely on the basis of the profit motive.

3) The Canadian economy is dominated by the United States; over 70 per cent of our trade is with the U.S. Canada must achieve economic independence from the U.S. or, it will never be able to overcome the stagnation and poverty that plague it.

4) All the institutions that affect people's lives--

schools, unions, governments, political parties -- must become more democratic. In order to improve the quality of life in Canada, we must eliminate authoritarianism in these areas.

5) Quebec has its own language, culture and aspirations. Many of the leaders of the liberation movement in Quebec want to create a socialist Quebec. Like the people in the Prairies, they want to end cultural and economic domination by the big corporations of Toronto, Montreal and the U.S.

The right of the Quebecois to self-determination must be supported. It would be best if Quebec socialism could be built within Confederation. But if people in Quebec choose separation, this is their decision.

English- and French-speaking socialists in Canada must ally with each other -- "Two nations, one struggle."

6) If we are going to build a socialist society, we must build socialism in all the organizations of our communities. We must recognize the present limitations of parliaments, voting and the established political parties. We must be willing to make extra-parliamentary activity a major part of our movement.

Socialists in the NDP in all three Prairie provinces are beginning to build active organizations on the basis of these six principles. These organizations will try to transform the NDP into a truly socialist movement.

Though people will be organized independently of the NDP and its formal structure these Waffle groups will direct their activities toward becoming powerful caucuses within the party.

The Saskatchewan Waffle caucus will have a founding conference sometime in the spring. Anyone who supports the six basic principles can join the caucus by writing to Waffle Caucus, 3305 Cronkite St., Saskatoon.

Members will receive a national Waffle newsletter, literature from the Saskatchewan group, and copies of the Manifesto and other resolutions presented to the National Convention.

The first public event sponsored by the Saskatchewan Waffle group will be Jan. 27 at the Bessborough Hotel in Saskatoon. Prof. Watkins, one of the drafters of the original manifesto, and NDP National Vice-President, will speak on the "branch-plant" economy

## Workers World

The first couple of years in a new potash mine are not bad at all.

The work is rough in the beginning. There are a lot of bad accidents, and this inevitably means a few fatalities.

A new mine has to be broken in, and the larger and more complex the mine is the tougher it is to get rid of all the bugs.

But at this point, the corporation and the workmen are as one, at grips with a common opponent.

But things change quickly once the process starts leveling off and production stabilizes. Management becomes aloof and cold.

The wet rot of bureaucracy sets in. Rules become very rigid, and unnecessary rules are piled up endlessly. Soon the organization resembles a highly disciplined infantry regiment.

But then, in an infantry regiment they give you about four hours to spruce things up for a commanding officer's inspection.

All leaks are repaired or hidden. On the final night before the inspection, workmen are called in on the midnight shift to dust all the handrails.

One almost expects to see the president descend from a cloud, on golden stairs, after all the weeks of frantic preparation.

So it happens, as time goes on, that job-related pressures decrease, while artificial pressures are piled on to the individual until they nearly overwhelm him.

It takes about two years for the corporation to destroy the feelings of solidarity and companionship with fellow workmen. Feelings of pride and accomplishment that come from having done

tasks together.

In the end you find everyone hating each other.

This is especially true in non-union plants. Here the emphasis is placed, supposedly, on individuality. But what this really means--true to the American version of free enterprise --- pressure to tear down and destroy other individuals competing with you. To squeal to the boss. To lie when necessary, even to the point of turning in your best buddy in the hope that you'll be recognized by management and the usual reward of higher status will follow.

After you've got certain minimum standards of job quality, your work is nearly irrelevant to job security or promotion. Your rhetoric is what counts.

If you speak fondly of total free enterprise and negatively about all types of government activity, it helps you considerably.

You must worry constantly about such phrases as "company image," "increased profits," "go ahead and be selfish". You must always pass some kindly comment about the "illustrated current news" that is posted on the bulletin boards.

You must never, never refer to it as propaganda. This propaganda is captioned with such statements as "Super dog being bred in South Africa" and "Elizabeth Taylor wears a million dollar set of jewelry, a gift of her husband."

Such inane material as this appears to have no visible effect on the reader. Unfortunately, it effects everyone subjected to it after a period of time.

In the end, workmen go to work almost completely vegetablized, hating management, hating fellow workers, and hating themselves.

Everyone wonders vaguely why they are so unhappy. But alas, they credit it all to themselves on an individual basis. They don't realize they've been computerized by the world's highest paid psychologists and their own fear of loss of income.

One can only feel sorry that this type of sacrifice is necessary in order for basically good, honest people to make a living.

We must work without pride, without honour, betraying our friends, betraying ourselves, preaching about the grandeur of free enterprise. All the while we work in a combine of fixed prices for fat profit, in order to satisfy selfish strangers whom we will never see, much less come to love.

Gone are the days when we all worked together and "neither hell nor high water could stop us." But this same spirit could now be used to change this system of human and mental destruction into one with humanitarian meaning and purpose.

Why couldn't our local natural wealth -- such as wheat and potash--be used to make our own cities and towns live again?

Why must our wheat rot in the fields while people starve?

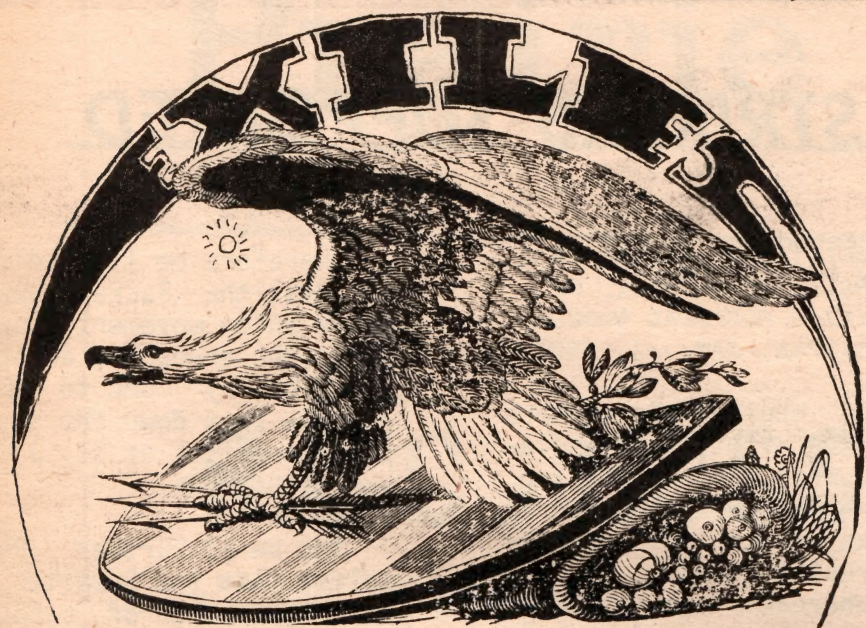
Why must potash only be marketed through combines that create artificially inflated prices, when nearly all the regions of the earth cry for its use?

Markets are man-made, after all, so why must regions such as Saskatchewan die while an abundance rots in our storage bins?

The potash companies have many of the answers to these dark questions, but they are not very likely to reveal them.

(Name withheld by request)





Since I have been in Regina, I have come into contact with people who believe that the United States provides a worthy ideal for Canada to work towards. This belief appears to be based on America's great wealth and technological advancement. I, in turn, believe that Canadians who accept the "American Dream" have never looked behind the facade of American democracy.

Once they do, they will find that it is only a facade designed to lull an unthinking populace into apathy and blissful ignorance.

While the people sleep, the men in power void the Constitution in order to initiate wars, draft men into slavery, and trample on the rights of everyone.

The national budget follows a parallel course. The majority of funds are allocated to the military and business sectors of society.

There is no concern for the 30 million people who live in poverty. There is no concern about racism, which effectively denies rights--- human and legal--- to minority groups in the U.S. Fifty percent of Black people in the U.S. live in poverty conditions.

The U.S. power structure concerns itself first and foremost with protecting the American Empire (for instance, Vietnam) and providing fantastic profits for the rich. The government gives subsidies and tax allowances to the rich minority, but the average citizen gets no such breaks.

Nelson Rockefeller, one of the wealthiest men in America, pays about 1.4% of his yearly profits in taxes, while American workers pay 3 out of every 8 dollars in taxes each year ---39%.

Many of the richest people in the U.S. pay no income tax at all. Corporations and wealthy individuals avoid paying billions of dollars in taxes every year by not being subject to the same tax rates as the rest of the population.

The burden of supporting the government is placed on the backs of the average and

below-average income groups. But they derive little benefit from their financial contributions. Most of their money goes to the military and business interests.

This year the U.S. government will spend \$890 million to develop the Anti-Ballistic Missile system, another step towards nuclear destruction. It will spend little more than this on its two biggest programs to renew the cities and help Blacks improve themselves. The U.S. Navy has been given \$1.7 billion to purchase new ships, the same amount allocated for education of the poor.

The Pentagon will spend \$8 billion on research for new weapons of death, more than is spent on the entire Medicare program.

The list of insane priorities goes on and on. Out of a national budget of \$191 billion, \$80 billion is set aside for the generals in the Pentagon.

If the rest of the money went to benefit the people great changes could still be made. But the rest of the money does not go to the people. Much of it is spent to reinforce only the "glory" of America, a glory that is now hollow.

Federal money helps build gigantic skyscrapers, which will be occupied by the rich.

Many millions of dollars are spent to erect monuments and to build plush quarters for Congress, opulent surroundings to better insulate them from the reality of America.

Forty billion dollars were spent to put a man on the moon. That did little to help the black children who are starving in the ghetto, but it did a great job of distracting the attention of the people who could help solve the problem of ghettos.

In return for their financial support of militarism and corporate profits, the American people become targets of the profit-hungry barons. The prices of goods and rent for housing are set at exorbitant rates, and interest rates soar.

Poor people who are forced to borrow money from loan companies often discover that they must pay up to \$1,000 interest a year. They are subjected to intimidation, harassment and violence by the law enforcement agents they pay.

This is the America that many Canadians look to as the ideal, and the symptoms of the "ideal" are already evident in Canadian society.

But it could be that the exploitation of the American people, and the Canadian people by the U.S. military-industry rulers will be of little importance in future years. The men at the top of the power structure are well on their way to destroying our environment--ma-

king the earth incapable of sustaining human life.

The rivers and lakes of America are little more than sewage systems. Forests have been permanently destroyed. U.S. oil companies have polluted numerous areas of water around the world.

The irresponsible rape of wilderness areas by men in search of greater profits has disturbed the ecological balance of the earth. It may soon be too late to halt the destruction of our planet.

Do Canadians really want to follow the example of America? I hope not.

America, as it exists today, can serve as no ideal to anyone who cares about people.

## LEVESQUE SPOKESMAN FOR QUEBECOIS MIDDLECLASS

Rene Levesque, leader of the separatist Le Parti Quebecois, spoke at the Saskatoon campus of the University last week. His speech revealed just how limited his perspective on Quebec is.

Levesque's party represents mostly the middle class in Quebec. Thus Levesque spoke mainly about the issues that concern this group.

He gave major emphasis to the cultural oppression that Quebec people face, but he said little about the economic exploitation that underlies popular unrest there.

Levesque pointed out that French Canadians constitute a nation, sharing a common culture, language and history. What he didn't explain is that this history is one of domination by British, Anglo-Canadian and American super-corporations.

In Quebec, big business speaks English, while the working people speak French.

Eighty to 90 per cent of Quebec workers are employed by English-speaking firms. The standard of living in Quebec is two-thirds of the Canadian average.

Quebec's rate of unemployment is invariably higher than the Canadian average. A tiny number of Anglo-Canadian and U.S. monopolies control the Quebec economy, and they've geared it mostly to the extraction of natural resources.

It's certainly true, as Levesque pointed out, that workers and farmers in Quebec are discriminated against in such areas as education.

It's no accident that the wealthiest of Quebec's universities, McGill, is the school of the English-speaking elite. It's no accident that "getting ahead" for the son of a Frenchman in Quebec

means abandoning his culture and his language.

But what Levesque didn't describe is the *double* oppression of workers and farmers in Quebec. Quebecois don't only feel cultural oppression. They're also oppressed as workers and farmers in a society that they don't control.

Levesque's party represents the more radical wing of the middle class, and his rhetoric sounds militant.

What few people realize, however, is that he and his party offer no real solution to the problems of working people in Quebec.

A solution of the national question in Quebec will come only from the working people. It cannot come from a merely cultural movement of the middle class, like Levesque's party.

Only a socialist movement has the power to seize control of the Anglo-Canadian and U.S. monopolies which exploit workers in Quebec.

Levesque also failed to deal with the resentment which so many people in the Prairies feel toward Quebec. Most of this feeling stems from the fact that farmers in the Prairies understand how they are exploited by large Eastern-Canadian corporations.

Levesque couldn't explain that Prairie farmers are misdirecting their anger when they include all people in Quebec, rather than focusing it on the big Anglo-Canadian monopolies.

He couldn't tell Westerners that their enemy is not all Eastern Canadians, and certainly not all Quebecois. Their enemy and the enemy of the Quebecois is the same -- English-Canadian and U.S. monopolies.



# Calendar of Events

The For Reel Film Society formerly called the Riel Film Society, was originally part of the Riel Community Centre. The organizers felt there was a need for the kind of creative and controversial films that are rarely seen in Regina.

It was also thought this film society would bring together people of similar concerns to talk and share ideas. When the centre was closed down, the people who wanted to continue the film activity secured a place at the University and began.

The program schedule for 1970 includes 26 films during seven evening programs. The films are politically and artistically controversial. They provide a welcome contrast to the Hollywood and other purely commercial films usually shown at local movie theatres.

The subscription cards cost \$5.00 and are available at the University (at a table in the main hall of the classroom building). They can also be purchased, from:

For Reel Film Society  
c/o Jim Hall

2186 Athol St.  
Regina

The tickets can be used to bring guests, or can be loaned to friends. The society must sell 200 tickets to break even this season. The schedule below is dependent upon securing that number of sales.

The ambition of the film committee is the establishment of a film co-op which would enable people to make their own films.

The next films will be "King of Hearts" by Alan Bates and "Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" by Robert Enrico, both on January 31.

## LOCAL LABOR MEETINGS

### MONDAY, JANUARY 19

Plumbers 179  
Allied Printers Trade Council  
U.S.W.A. 5890

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

Transportation 13774  
U.S.W.A. 4228  
O.C.A.W. 9-649

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

Cement Workers 367  
CUPE 167

## STRIKERS SUPPORTED

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY A  
RALLY IN SUPPORT OF  
STRIKING HOSPITAL WORKERS,  
ESTEVAN, JAN. 11, 1970

1) Whereas the workers are the victims of inflation, not the causes; and

Whereas unemployment in Saskatchewan is rapidly increasing; and

Whereas the federal government pays for half of the operating costs of all general hospitals;

Therefore be it Resolved that this meeting reject the phony pretenses of government and management that money is not available to raise hospital wages above the poverty level.

2) Whereas the Estevan Hospital strike is now in its 12th week; and

Whereas the membership of Local 80 and the staff of CUPE have made every reasonable effort to settle this dispute;

Therefore be it Resolved that the Saskatchewan Trade Union movement supports the announced determination by CUPE to completely shut down the hospital services at St. Joseph's, Estevan.

And be it Further Resolved that the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour notify all its affiliates, so that trade unionists from all parts of Saskatchewan can join CUPE members on the picket lines.

3) Whereas the Hospital Board and the religious order operating St. Joseph's Hospital have broken faith with the membership of Local 80 by disregarding all the principles and regulations agreed upon to provide emergency services to the citizens of Estevan during the duration of the strike; and

Whereas the chairman of the Hospital Board has day by day continuously attempted to have employees on strike return to work and become SCABS; and

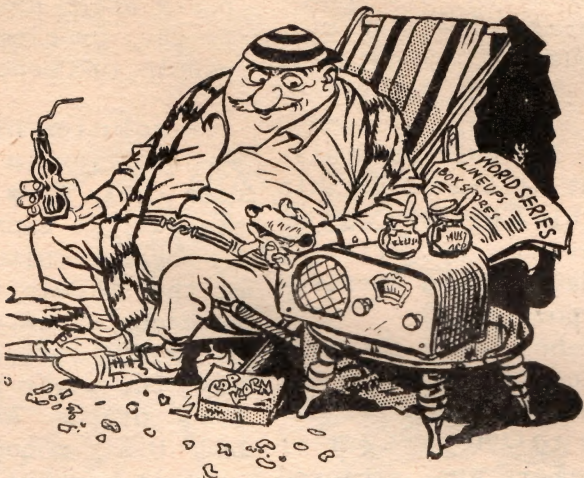
Whereas the management of the Hospital, the Saskatchewan Hospital Association and its chief negotiator, Mr. Richardson, have resorted to tactics that indicate their intent to break the strike by every means possible;

Therefore be it Resolved that the Trade Union movement condemn the strike-breaking tactics of the employer, the Hospital Association and its representatives; and

Be it further Resolved that the Trade Union movement of Saskatchewan completely supports the announced action by CUPE to make the strike fully effective.

# Prairie Fire

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